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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Oksana **Boiko** (Ukraine)

I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 17th to 21st, 25th, 28th, 31st, 32nd, 51st and 55th meetings, on 11, 14 to 16, 23, 28 and 31 October and 1, 15 and 20 November 2002. At its 17th to 21st meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on item 105 jointly with item 43, entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children". An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/57/SR.17-21, 25, 28, 31, 32, 51 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/57/295);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (A/57/402).

4. At the 17th meeting, on 11 October, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Deputy to the Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 41* and corrigendum (A/57/41 and Corr.1).

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and the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund made introductory statements (see A/C.3/57/SR.17).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee engaged in a dialogue with the above-mentioned speakers, in which the following delegations took part: Afghanistan, Syrian Arab Republic, Austria, Cuba, Switzerland, Palestine, Israel, Senegal, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Suriname (see A/C.3/57/SR.17).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.23

6. At the 25th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian children" (A/C.3/57/L.23). Subsequently, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, the Comoros, Lesotho, the Niger, Suriname and the Syrian Arab Republic joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 51st meeting, on 15 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.23 by a recorded vote of 95 to 3, with 58 abstentions (see para. 25, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, United States of America.

[2] The delegation of Oman subsequently indicated that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia.

8. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Israel, Egypt and the United States of America; after its adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as Iceland and Norway), Australia, Turkey, Canada, Cameroon, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, India and Suriname, as well as the observer for Palestine (see A/C.3/57/SR.51).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.24/Rev.1

9. At the 28th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Namibia, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The girl child" (A/C.3/57/L.24/Rev.1). Subsequently, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

10. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Namibia orally revised it by deleting operative paragraph 16, which had read:

> "16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including Governments, to promote the active participation of the girl child in the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes, including country programmes, that affect her",

and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

11. At its 31st meeting, on 31 October, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, the Committee voted on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.24/Rev.1, which it adopted by a recorded vote of 144 to 2, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:[3]

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against:

Marshall Islands, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Haiti, Israel.

12. Before the vote on operative paragraph 1, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/57/SR.31).

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.24/Rev.1 as a whole, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 25, draft resolution II).

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/57/SR.31).

[3] The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran subsequently stated that, had it been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of operative paragraph 1.

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.25 and Rev.1 and amendment contained in document A/C.3/57/L.72

15. At the 32nd meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Uruguay, on behalf of Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago,[4] Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Rights of the child" (A/C.3/57/L.25), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* all of its resolutions on the rights of the child, in particular resolutions 55/78 and 55/79 of 4 December 2000, recalling resolution 56/138 of 19 December 2001, and taking note with appreciation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/92 of 26 April 2002,

"*Bearing in mind* the Convention on the Rights of the Child, emphasizing that the provisions of the Convention and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

"*Welcoming* the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,

"*Reaffirming* the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, which, inter alia, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to combat exploitation and abuse of children, such as female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution and child pornography, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

"*Welcoming* the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children and the firm commitments contained therein to promote and

[4] On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

protect the rights of each child — every human being below the age of 18 years, including adolescents,

"*Welcoming also* the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001 adopted at the second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, and calling upon States to consider its outcome,

"*Welcoming further* the integration of issues of child rights in the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

"*Profoundly concerned* that the situation of girls and boys in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions in an increasingly globalized world economy, pandemics, in particular human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, natural disasters, armed conflict, displacement, exploitation, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

"*Underlining* the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes relating to children,

"*Recognizing* the need for the realization of a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, the protection of the child from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the provision of universal and equal access to primary education and the implementation of the commitments on the education of children contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

"*Concerned* at the number of illegal adoptions, of children growing up without parents and of child victims of family and social violence, neglect and abuse,

"*Concerned also* at the number of cases of international abduction of children by one of the parents,

"*Recognizing* that partnership among Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, is important to realizing the rights of the child,

"I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

"1. *Once again urges* the States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence as soon as possible;

"2. *Reiterates its concern* at the great number of reservations to the Convention, and urges States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to review on a regular basis any reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

"3. *Calls upon* States parties to implement fully the Convention, while stressing that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the

achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children and the special session of the General Assembly on children, and of the goals and objectives endorsed at the relevant major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

"4. *Urges* States to assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters that affect him or her, the views being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, and in this regard to involve children and young people in their efforts to implement the Convention and the goals of the Summit and the special session of the Assembly on children, as well as in other programmes relating to children and young people, as appropriate;

"5. *Calls upon* States parties to cooperate closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and encourages States parties to take into account the recommendations made by the Committee in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, notes the temporary support given by the plan of action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the important role of the Committee in advancing the implementation of the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to make available information on the follow-up to the plan of action;

"7. *Calls upon* States parties urgently to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force, thus increasing the membership of the Committee from ten to eighteen experts, bearing in mind, inter alia, the additional workload of the Committee when the two Optional Protocols to the Convention enter into force;

"8. *Invites* the Committee to continue to enhance its constructive dialogue with the States parties and its transparent and effective functioning;

"9. *Recommends* that, within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and in which their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee, and encourages the further development of the rights-based approach adopted by the United Nations Children's Fund and further steps to increase system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

"10. *Encourages* the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

"11. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring adequate and systematic training in the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children, including specialized judges, law enforcement officials, lawyers, social workers, medical doctors, health professionals and teachers, and of coordination among various governmental bodies involved in children's rights, and encourages States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote education and training in this regard;

"12. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations and child rights advocates, to continue to contribute, as appropriate, to the web-based database launched by the United Nations Children's Fund so as to continue the provision of information on laws, structures, policies and processes adopted at the national level to translate the Convention into practice, and in this regard commends the Fund for its work to disseminate lessons learned in the implementation of the Convention;

"II. Protection and promotion of the rights of children

"*Identity, family relations and birth registration*

"1. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth, including through the consideration of simplified, expeditious and effective procedures;

"2. *Also calls upon* all States to undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law, without unlawful interference and, where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, to provide appropriate assistance and protection with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity;

"3. *Urges* all States to ensure, as far as possible, the right of the child to know and be cared for by his or her parents;

"4. *Also urges* all States to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when the competent authorities, subject to judicial review, determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary in the best interest of the child, and, where alternative care is necessary, to promote family and community-based care in preference to placement in institutions, recognizing that such determination may be necessary in a particular case, such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents or one in which the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence;

"5. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in adoptions of children and to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat illegal adoptions and adoptions which do not follow the normal procedures;

"6. *Also calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to address the problem of children growing up without parents, in particular orphaned

children and children who are victims of family and social violence, neglect and abuse;

"7. *Urges* States to address cases of international abduction of children by one of the parents and to assist a parent whose child has been abducted by the other parent;

"*Health*

"8. *Calls upon* all States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to pay particular attention to the development of sustainable health systems and social services to ensure the effective prevention of diseases, malnutrition, disabilities and infant and child mortality, including through prenatal and post-natal health care, as well as the provision of necessary medical treatment and health care to all children, taking into consideration the special needs of young children and girls, including prevention of common infectious diseases, the special needs of adolescents, including those relating to reproductive and sexual health and threats from substance abuse and violence, and the particular needs of children living in poverty, children in situations of armed conflict and children in other vulnerable groups, and to strengthen ways of empowering families and communities;

"9. *Calls upon* all States to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children affected by disease and malnutrition, including protection from all forms of discrimination, abuse or neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health care;

"10. *Welcomes* the attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the realization of the highest attainable standards of health and access to health care and to the rights of children affected by human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

"11. *Urges* States to give particular emphasis to the prevention of HIV infection in young children and strengthen efforts to prevent adolescents and women from becoming HIV-infected, inter alia, by including HIV/AIDS prevention in educational curricula and educational programmes consistent with the epidemiology of the diseases in each State, and by supporting wide-scale voluntary HIV testing and counselling programmes for pregnant women, together with services for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus from HIV/AIDS-infected pregnant women to their children;

"12. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures to protect children infected and/or affected by HIV/AIDS from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse and neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health, education and social services, with a view to the realization of their rights;

"13. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS

aimed at providing assistance to children infected or affected by the epidemic, including those orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, focusing in particular on the worst-hit regions of Africa and areas in which the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains, calls upon them also to give importance to the treatment, care and support of children infected with HIV/AIDS, and invites them to consider further involving the private sector;

"14. *Urges* all States to assign priority to activities and programmes aimed at preventing the abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and inhalants as well as preventing other addictions, in particular addiction to alcohol and tobacco, among children and young people, especially those in vulnerable situations, and urges all States to counter the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

"15. *Also urges* all States to make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible for children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol;

"*Education*

"16. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity by making primary education compulsory and ensuring that all children have access to free and relevant primary education, as well as by making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

"17. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum and calls for its full implementation, and in this regard invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to implement its mandated role in coordinating Education for All partners and maintaining their collaborative momentum;

"18. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate the gender gap in education, reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure equal access for girls and boys to all levels of education and the completion of a full course of primary schooling by children everywhere, boys and girls alike, by 2015, and in this regard encourages the implementation of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the World Education Forum;

"19. *Calls upon* States to ensure that emphasis is given to the qualitative aspects of education, that the education of the child is carried out, that States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child develop and implement programmes for the education of the child, in accordance with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention, and that education is directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the preparation of the child for a responsible life in a free society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin, and to ensure that children, from an early age, benefit from education on values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that will enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity

and of tolerance and non-discrimination, bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

"20. *Calls upon* all States to take all appropriate measures to prevent racist, discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes and behaviour by means of education, keeping in mind the important role that children have to play in changing such practices;

"21. *Also calls upon* all States to remove educational disparities and make education accessible to children living in poverty, children living in remote areas, children with special educational needs, children affected by armed conflict and children requiring special protection, including refugee children, migrant children, street children, children deprived of their liberty, indigenous children and children belonging to minorities;

"22. *Calls upon* States, educational institutions and the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the particular needs of the girl child in education;

"*Freedom from violence*

"23. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

"24. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, including physical, mental and sexual violence, torture, child abuse, abuse by police, other law enforcement authorities and employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions, including orphanages, and domestic violence;

"25. *Also calls upon* States to investigate and submit cases of torture and other forms of violence against children to the competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution and to impose appropriate disciplinary or penal sanctions against those responsible for such practices;

"26. *Requests* all relevant human rights mechanisms, in particular special rapporteurs and working groups, within their mandates, to pay attention to the special situations of violence against children, reflecting their experiences in the field;

"27. *Reaffirms* its decision to request the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study of the question of violence against children and encourages him to appoint, as soon as possible, an independent expert to direct the study, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization;

"28. *Calls upon* the Governments of all States, in particular States in which the death penalty has not been abolished, to comply with the obligations that they have assumed under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, including in particular articles 37 to 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and articles 6 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

"III. Promotion and protection of the rights of children in particularly vulnerable situations and non-discrimination against children

"*Plight of children working and/or living on the streets*

"1. *Calls upon* Governments to seek comprehensive solutions to the problems that cause children to work and/or live on the streets and to implement appropriate programmes and policies for the protection and the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, bearing in mind that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

"2. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that basic social services, notably education, are provided for children in order to divert them from and to address the economic imperatives that lead to involvement in harmful, exploitative and abusive activity;

"3. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life, to take urgent and effective measures to prevent the killing of children working and/or living on the streets, to combat torture and abusive treatment and violence against them and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

"4. *Calls upon* all States to take the situation of children working and/or living on the streets into account when preparing reports for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and encourages the Committee and other relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to pay increased attention to the question of children working and/or living on the streets;

"5. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, including technical advice and assistance, the efforts of States to improve the situation of children working and/or living on the streets;

"*Refugee and internally displaced children*

"6. *Urges* Governments to improve the implementation of policies and programmes for the protection, care and well-being of refugee and internally displaced children and for the provision of basic social services, including access to education, with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, in accordance with the obligations of States under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

"7. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict, as well as United Nations bodies and organizations, to give urgent attention, in terms of protection and assistance, to the fact that refugee and internally displaced children are particularly exposed to risks in connection with armed conflict, such as being forcibly recruited or subjected to sexual violence, abuse or exploitation;

"8. *Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children, and calls upon all States and United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification and to continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children;

"*Children with disabilities*

"9. *Encourages* the working group on the rights of children with disabilities established pursuant to the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to put into practice as soon as possible the recommendations arising from the day of general discussion on the rights of children with disabilities, held on 6 October 1997, including the drafting of a plan of action on children with disabilities, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on Disability and other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

"10. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities to consider the issue of children with disabilities in its deliberations;

"11. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, and to develop and enforce legislation against their discrimination so as to ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community, including effective access to educational and health services;

"*Migrant children*

"12. *Calls upon* States to protect all human rights of migrant children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and to ensure that the best interest of the child shall accordingly be a primary consideration, and encourages the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, to pay particular attention to the conditions of migrant children in all States and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to strengthen their protection;

"13. *Also calls upon* States to cooperate fully with and to assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants in addressing the particularly vulnerable conditions of migrant children;

"IV. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation and abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography

"1. *Welcomes* the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and expresses its support for his work;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to enable him to discharge his mandate fully;

"3. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to give full consideration to all of his recommendations;

"4. *Invites* further voluntary contributions through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and support for the work of the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

"5. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and urges States parties to implement it fully;

"6. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

"7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or the trafficking in children for any purpose or in any form, including the transfer of the organs of the child for profit, and to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with articles 35 and 34 of the Convention;

"8. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate steps to combat the misuse of new information and communication technologies, including the Internet, for trafficking in children and for purposes of all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, child sex tourism, acts of paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents, and notes that the use of such technologies can also contribute to preventing and eradicating such phenomena;

"9. *Also calls upon* States to criminalize and to penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, paedophilia, child pornography, child prostitution, child sex tourism, trafficking, the sale of children and their organs and engagement in forced child labour and any other form of exploitation, while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration, and to take effective measures to ensure the prosecution of offenders, whether local or foreign, by the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse takes place, in accordance with due process of law;

"10. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by means of multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, and in this regard

calls upon Member States to promote international cooperation and coordination among their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations, as appropriate;

"11. *Requests* States to increase cooperation and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and dismantle networks that traffic in children;

"12. *Stresses* the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through preventive and enforcement measures that target customers or individuals who sexually exploit or abuse children, and by ensuring public awareness;

"13. *Calls upon* States to enact, enforce, review and revise, as appropriate, laws and to implement policies, programmes and practices to protect children from and to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, taking into account the particular problems posed by the use of the Internet in this regard;

"14. *Also calls upon* States to identify best practices and to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures, to allocate resources for the development of long-term policies, programmes and practices, to collect comprehensive and disaggregated gender-specific data, to facilitate the participation of child victims of sexual exploitation in the development of strategies to end the sale of children and their organs, sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and acts of paedophilia, and to combat existing markets;

"15. *Urges* States to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offences set forth in article 3, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal for the proceedings;

"16. *Calls upon* all States to contribute to the elimination of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by adopting a holistic approach, addressing the contributing factors, including underdevelopment, poverty, economic disparities, inequitable socio-economic structures, dysfunctional families, irresponsible adult sexual behaviour, lack of education, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, harmful traditional practices, armed conflict and trafficking in children;

"17. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to allocate appropriate resources for the rehabilitation of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and to take all appropriate measures to promote their full recovery and social reintegration;

"V. Protection of children affected by armed conflict

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;

"2. *Expresses its support* for the work of the Special Representative in the fulfilment of his mandate, as established in paragraphs 35 to 37 of General

Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, in particular in raising worldwide awareness and mobilizing official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in order to promote respect for the rights and needs of children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and recommends that the Secretary-General extend his mandate for a further period of three years;

"3. *Recognizes* the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative in resolution 51/77, and bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the United Nations;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the United Nations response to children affected by armed conflict including recommendations for strengthening, sustaining, mainstreaming and streamlining activities, and to submit his report during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly for consideration and action at the beginning of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

"5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and all relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the Special Representative and the United Nations Children's Fund, to intensify further their efforts to continue to develop a concerted approach to the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict, including, as appropriate, in the preparations for the field visits of the Special Representative and in the follow-up to such visits;

"6. *Calls upon* all States and other parties concerned to continue to cooperate with the Special Representative in implementing the commitments that they have undertaken and to consider carefully all of the recommendations of the Special Representative and address the issues identified;

"7. *Welcomes* the continued support for and voluntary contributions to the work of the Special Representative in the fulfilment of his mandate;

"8. *Also welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and urges States parties to implement it fully;

"9. *Invites* States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;

"10. *Urges* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to put an end to any form of targeting of children and to attacking sites that usually have a significant presence of children, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, and calls upon all parties to armed conflict to take all measures required to protect children from acts that constitute violations of international humanitarian law, including prosecution by States, within their national legal framework, of those responsible for such violations;

"11. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the contribution of the establishment of the International Criminal Court to ending impunity for perpetrators of certain crimes committed against children, as defined in the Statute of the Court,

which include those involving sexual violence or child soldiers, and thus to the prevention of such crimes, and takes duly into consideration measures for special treatment and rehabilitation of child offenders;

"12. *Stresses* the importance of all relevant United Nations actors in the field improving their reporting, within their respective mandates, concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict and giving additional attention to this question;

"13. *Condemns* the abduction of children in situations of armed conflict and into armed conflict, urges States, international organizations and other concerned parties to take all appropriate measures to secure the unconditional release, rehabilitation, reintegration and reunification with their families of all abducted children, and urges States to bring the perpetrators to justice;

"14. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the adoption of children in situations of armed conflict is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that the best interest of the child is always envisaged as a paramount consideration;

"15. *Urges* States and all other parties to armed conflict to end the use of children as soldiers, to ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, further encourages efforts by, inter alia, regional organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to bring an end to the use of children as soldiers in armed conflict, and emphasizes that no support shall be given to those who systematically abuse or violate the rights of children during armed conflicts;

"16. *Underlines* the importance of including measures to ensure the rights of the child, inter alia, in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, in emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

"17. *Reaffirms* the essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, takes note of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1379 (2001) on 20 November 2001, and notes the importance of the open debate held in the Security Council on 7 May 2002 on children and armed conflict and the undertaking provided by the Council to give special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children when taking action aimed at maintaining peace and security;

"18. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to ensure the full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all children affected by armed conflict;

"19. *Reaffirms* agreed conclusions 1999/1 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 1999, in which the Council, inter alia, called for systematic, concerted and comprehensive inter-agency efforts on behalf of children, as well as adequate and sustainable resource allocation, to provide

both immediate emergency assistance to and long-term measures for children throughout all the phases of an emergency;

"20. *Urges* States to implement effective measures for the rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of all child victims in cases of armed conflict, invites the international community to assist in this endeavour, and further emphasizes the importance of giving systematic consideration to the special needs and particular vulnerability of the girl child during conflicts and in post-conflict situations;

"21. *Calls upon* States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support national and international mine-action efforts, including by means of financial contributions, mine-awareness programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, and welcomes the positive effects on children of concrete legislative measures with respect to anti-personnel mines;

"22. *Invites* States, multilateral donors and the private sector to cooperate and to commit the resources necessary for the early development of new and more efficient mine-detection and mine-clearance technologies for assistance in mine action;

"23. *Notes with concern* the impact of small arms and light weapons on children in situations of armed conflict, in particular as a result of their illicit production and traffic;

"24. *Recommends* that, whenever sanctions are imposed, their impact on children be assessed and monitored and that humanitarian exemptions be child-focused and formulated with clear guidelines for their application;

"25. *Calls upon* States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies and regional organizations to integrate the rights of the child into all activities in conflict and post-conflict situations, including training programmes and emergency relief operations, country programmes and field operations aimed at promoting peace and preventing and resolving conflict, as well as the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, and, given the long-term consequences for society, underlines the importance of including specific provisions for children, including resourcing, in peace agreements and in arrangements negotiated by parties;

"26. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in the training and gender-sensitized education programmes of their armed forces, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, in particular women and children;

"27. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to encourage the involvement of young people in activities concerning the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation, peace-building and children-to-children networks;

"28. *Notes with appreciation* the appointment by the Secretary-General of child protection advisers in United Nations peacekeeping missions, and encourages him to appoint such advisers, where appropriate, to existing and future peacekeeping operations;

"29. *Also notes with appreciation* the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children and efforts by regional organizations, in particular the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Organization of American States and the African Union, to include prominently the rights and protection of children affected by armed conflict in their policies and programmes;

"VI. Progressive elimination of child labour

"1. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

"2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to child labour, in particular the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138), and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention 182), and to implement those conventions;

"3. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, and urges them, inter alia, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour as set out in the 1999 International Labour Organization Convention No. 182;

"4. *Also calls upon* all States to assess and examine systematically the magnitude, nature and causes of child labour and to elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, giving special attention to specific dangers faced by girls, as well as to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the children concerned;

"5. *Recognizes* that primary education is one of the main instruments for reintegrating child workers, calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and to ensure that all children have equal access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour, and recognizes, in particular, the important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in this regard;

"6. *Calls upon* all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child and in attaining the objective of eliminating child labour contrary to accepted international standards;

"7. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen cooperation and coordination at the national and international levels to address effectively the problem of child labour, in close cooperation with, inter alia, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund;

"VII

"*Decides*:

"(a) To request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the final document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'a world fit for children', with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on action needed to make further progress;

"(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

"(c) To include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled 'Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly', which will be considered by the General Assembly in plenary meeting;

"(d) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the problems addressed in the present resolution;

"(e) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

"(f) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled 'Promotion and protection of the rights of children'."

16. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/57/L.25/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.25 and Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, New Zealand, South Africa and Swaziland.

17. At the same meeting, the Committee also had before it an amendment proposed by Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine (A/C.3/57/L.72), by which subparagraph (d) of section VII of revised draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.25/Rev.1 would be amended to read:

"(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, taking into account paragraph 44 (20), under Protection from armed conflict, of the plan of action adopted by the General Assembly at its special session on children, bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies".

18. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement by the Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division regarding the revised draft resolution (see A/C.3/57/SR.55).

19. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The twelfth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"*Concerned also* at the number of cases of international abduction and/or kidnapping of children, including by one of the parents",

was revised to read:

"*Concerned also* by cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents";

(b) In section II, operative paragraph 8, the words "international abduction and/or kidnapping of children, including by one of the parents", were revised to read "international kidnapping of children by one of the parents";

(c) In section V, operative paragraph 3, the words "strengthening, mainstreaming and sustaining" were replaced by the words "strengthening, mainstreaming, integrating and sustaining";

(d) In section V, operative paragraph 16, the words "in accordance with international humanitarian law" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(e) In section VII, subparagraph (d), the words "taking into account the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its special session on children and" were inserted before the words "bearing in mind".

20. Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

21. Also at the 55th meeting, the observer for Palestine made a statement and, on behalf of the sponsors, withdrew the amendment contained in document A/C.3/57/L.72 (see A/C.3/57/SR.55).

22. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/57/L.25/Rev.1, as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 164 to 1 (see para. 25, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El

Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

23. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada and the United States of America; after its adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore and Israel, as well as the observer for Palestine (see A/C.3/57/SR.55).

D. Draft decision proposed by the Chairman

24. At its 55th meeting, on 20 November, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/57/295) (see para. 26).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

25. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian children

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5]

Recalling also the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,[6]

Recalling further the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session,[7]

Concerned that the Palestinian children under Israeli occupation remain deprived of many basic rights under the Convention,

Concerned also about the recent grave deterioration of the situation of Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of the continuing Israeli assaults and sieges on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps, resulting in the dire humanitarian crisis,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence resulting in extensive loss of human life and injuries, including among Palestinian children,

Deeply concerned about the consequences, including psychological consequences, of the Israeli military actions for the present and future well-being of Palestinian children,

1. *Stresses* the urgent need for Palestinian children to live a normal life, free from foreign occupation, destruction and fear, in their own State;

2. *Demands*, in the meantime, that Israel, the occupying Power, respect relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[5] and comply fully with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[8] in order to ensure the well-being and protection of Palestinian children and their families;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian children and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions.

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[5] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[6] A/45/625, annex.
[7] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Draft resolution II
The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/139 of 19 December 2001 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined, inter alia, in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[9] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[10]

Welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the involvement of children in armed conflict[11] and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[12]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000,[13]

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly at its special session on children, on 10 May 2002, of the outcome document entitled "A world fit for children",[14]

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth special session,[15]

Recalling all other relevant United Nations conferences, the Beijing Declaration[16] and Platform for Action[17] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[18] and the outcome documents of the recent five-year reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[19] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[20]

Reaffirming the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[21]

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[9] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[10] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[11] Resolution 54/263, annex I.
[12] Ibid., annex II.
[13] See resolution 55/2.
[14] Resolution S-27/2, annex.
[15] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[16] *Report of the fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[17] Ibid., annex II.
[18] Resolutions S-23/2, annex, and S-23/3, annex.
[19] Resolution S-21/2, annex.
[20] Resolution S-24/2, annex.
[21] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

Recalling the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996,[22] and welcoming the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, adopted at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001,[23]

Recalling also the International Conference on War-Affected Children, held at Winnipeg, Canada, in September 2000, and affirming the ongoing importance of the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children[24] for all children affected by armed conflict,

Recognizing the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, incest, early marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned also that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and that their potential for full development is thus limited,

Concerned that the girl child has furthermore become the victim of sexually transmitted diseases and increasingly of the human immunodeficiency virus, which have a serious impact on the quality of her life and leave her open to further discrimination,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child[10] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[9] as well as the need for universal ratification of those instruments;

2. *Urges* States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[25] and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[26]

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[22] A/51/385, annex.
[23] A/S-27/12, annex.
[24] A/55/467-S/2000/973, annex.
[25] Resolution 54/4, annex.
[26] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

3. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms and to base programmes and policies for the girl child on the rights of the child;

4. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum,[21] in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[13] in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action,[17] as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[27] where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Also urges* States to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the commitment to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[18]

8. *Urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced labour, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence;

9. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special

[27] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

10. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

11. *Urges* States to take special measures for the protection of war-affected girls and in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, paying special attention to refugee and displaced girls, and to take into account the special needs of the war-affected girl child in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;

12. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, protect and promote the rights of the child, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, and calls for special initiatives designed to address all of the rights and needs of war-affected girls;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and the full respect for and enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia, through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

14. *Calls upon* States and international and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all necessary resources, support and efforts to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination,[28] to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in the country programme of cooperation in accordance with the national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;[29]

16. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and its

[28] Formerly known as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (see Economic and Social Council decision 2001/321 of 24 October 2001).

[29] See A/53/226, paras. 72-77, and A/53/226/Add.1, paras. 88-98.

Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

17. *Stresses* the importance of a substantive assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action;

18. *Requests* Member States to ensure that, in preventing and addressing HIV/AIDS, particular attention is paid to the girl child infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and to provide the Secretary-General with information in this regard to help in the preparation of his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, as requested in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.[15]

Draft resolution III
Rights of the child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all of its resolutions on the rights of the child, in particular resolutions 55/78 and 55/79 of 4 December 2000, recalling resolution 56/138 of 19 December 2001, and taking note with appreciation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/92 of 26 April 2002,[30]

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[31] emphasizing that the provisions of the Convention and other relevant human rights instruments must constitute the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and reaffirming that the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration in all actions concerning children,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[32]

Reaffirming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,[33] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[34] which, inter alia, states that national and international mechanisms and programmes for the defence and protection of children, in particular those in especially difficult circumstances, should be strengthened, including through effective measures to

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[30] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[31] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[32] Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

[33] A/45/625, annex.

[34] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

combat the exploitation and abuse of children, female infanticide, harmful child labour, sale of children and organs, child prostitution and child pornography, and which reaffirms that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal,

Welcoming the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children[35] and the firm commitments contained therein to promote and protect the rights of each child — every human being below the age of 18 years, including adolescents,

Welcoming also the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001,[36] adopted at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001, and calling upon States to consider its outcome,

Welcoming further the integration of issues of child rights in the outcome documents of all major United Nations conferences, special sessions and summits,

Profoundly concerned that the situation of girls and boys in many parts of the world remains critical as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions in an increasingly globalized world economy, pandemics, in particular human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, malaria and tuberculosis, natural disasters, armed conflict, displacement, exploitation, violence, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Underlining the need for mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes relating to children,

Recognizing the need for the realization of a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, the protection of the child from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the provision of universal and equal access to primary education and the implementation of the commitments on the education of children contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[37]

Concerned at the number of illegal adoptions, of children growing up without parents and of child victims of different forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect within and outside the family,

Concerned also by cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents,

Recognizing that partnership among Governments, international organizations and all sectors of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and the private sector, is important to realizing the rights of the child,

I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. *Once again urges* the States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] as a matter of priority with a view to reaching the goal of universal adherence as soon as possible;

[35] Resolution S-27/2, annex.

[36] A/S-27/12, annex.

[37] See resolution 55/2, para. 19.

2. *Reiterates its concern* at the great number of reservations to the Convention, and urges States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to review on a regular basis any reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to implement fully the Convention, while stressing that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children and the special session of the General Assembly on children, and of the goals and objectives endorsed at the relevant major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions;

4. *Urges* States to assure the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters that affect him or her, the views being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, and in this regard to involve children and young people in their efforts to implement the goals of the Summit and the special session of the General Assembly on children, as well as in other programmes relating to children and young people, as appropriate;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to cooperate closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and encourages States parties to take into account the recommendations made by the Committee in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee, notes the temporary support given by the plan of action of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the important role of the Committee in advancing the implementation of the Convention, and also requests the Secretary-General to make available information on the follow-up to the plan of action;

7. *Calls upon* States parties urgently to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to paragraph 2 of article 43 of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force, thus increasing the membership of the Committee from ten to eighteen experts, bearing in mind, inter alia, the additional workload of the Committee when the two Optional Protocols to the Convention enter into force;

8. *Invites* the Committee to continue to enhance its constructive dialogue with the States parties and its transparent and effective functioning;

9. *Recommends* that, within their mandates, all relevant human rights mechanisms and all other relevant organs and mechanisms of the United Nations system and the supervisory bodies of the specialized agencies pay attention to particular situations in which children are in danger and in which their rights are violated and that they take into account the work of the Committee, and encourages the further development of the rights-based approach adopted by the United Nations Children's Fund and further steps to increase system-wide coordination and inter-agency cooperation for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

10. *Encourages* the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances;

11. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring adequate and systematic training in the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children, including specialized judges, law enforcement officials, lawyers, social workers, medical doctors, health professionals and teachers, and of coordination among various governmental bodies involved in children's rights, and encourages States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote education and training in this regard;

12. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations and child rights advocates, to continue to contribute, as appropriate, to the web-based database launched by the United Nations Children's Fund so as to continue the provision of information on laws, structures, policies and processes adopted at the national level to translate the Convention into practice, and in this regard commends the Fund for its work to disseminate lessons learned in the implementation of the Convention;

II. Protection and promotion of the rights of children

Identity, family relations and birth registration

1. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth, including through the consideration of simplified, expeditious and effective procedures;

2. *Also calls upon* all States to undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law, without unlawful interference and, where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, to provide appropriate assistance and protection with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity;

3. *Urges* all States to ensure, as far as possible, the right of the child to know and be cared for by his or her parents;

4. *Also urges* all States to ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when the competent authorities, subject to judicial review, determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary in the best interest of the child, and, where alternative care is necessary, to promote family and community-based care in preference to placement in institutions, recognizing that such determination may be necessary in a particular case, such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents or one in which the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence;

5. *Recalls* paragraph 15 of the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children,[35] which states that the family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened; that it is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support; that the primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family; and that all institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children

can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that, in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist;

6. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in adoptions of children and to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat illegal adoptions and adoptions which do not follow the normal procedures;

7. *Also calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to address the problem of children growing up without parents, in particular orphaned children and children who are victims of family and social violence, neglect and abuse;

8. *Urges* States to address cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents;

Health

9. *Calls upon* all States and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to pay particular attention to the development of sustainable health systems and social services to ensure the effective prevention of disease, malnutrition, disability and infant and child mortality, including through prenatal and post-natal health care, as well as the provision of necessary medical treatment and health care to all children, taking into consideration the special needs of young children and girls, including prevention of common infectious diseases, the special needs of adolescents, including those relating to reproductive and sexual health and threats from substance abuse and violence, and the particular needs of children living in poverty, children in situations of armed conflict and children in other vulnerable groups, and to strengthen ways of empowering families and communities;

10. *Calls upon* all States to adopt all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children affected by disease and malnutrition, including protection from all forms of discrimination, abuse or neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health care;

11. *Welcomes* the attention given by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the realization of the highest attainable standards of health and access to health care and to the rights of children affected by human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

12. *Urges* States to give particular emphasis to the prevention of HIV infection in young children and strengthen efforts to prevent adolescents and women from becoming HIV-infected, inter alia, by including HIV/AIDS prevention in educational curricula and educational programmes consistent with the epidemiology of the diseases in each State, and by supporting wide-scale voluntary HIV testing and counselling programmes for pregnant women, together with services for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus from infected pregnant women to their children;

13. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures to protect children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS from all forms of discrimination, stigma, abuse

and neglect, in particular in the access to and provision of health, education and social services, with a view to the realization of their rights;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS aimed at providing assistance to children infected or affected by the epidemic, including those orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, focusing in particular on the worst-hit regions of Africa and areas in which the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains, calls upon them also to give importance to the treatment, care and support of children infected with HIV/AIDS, and invites them to consider further involving the private sector;

15. *Urges* all States to assign priority to activities and programmes aimed at preventing the abuse of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and inhalants as well as preventing other addictions, in particular addiction to alcohol and tobacco, among children and young people, especially those in vulnerable situations, and urges all States to counter the use of children and young people in the illicit production of and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

16. *Also urges* all States to make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible for children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol;

Education

17. *Calls upon* States to recognize the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity by making primary education compulsory and ensuring that all children have access to free and relevant primary education, as well as by making secondary education generally available and accessible to all, in particular by the progressive introduction of free education;

18. *Reaffirms* the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum[38] and calls for its full implementation, and in this regard invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to implement its mandated role in coordinating Education for All partners and maintaining their collaborative momentum;

19. *Invites* Member States to develop national plans of action, or to strengthen existing ones, in order to achieve the objectives of Education for All so as to ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling;

20. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate the gender gap in education, reaffirms the commitment contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure equal access for girls and boys to all levels of education and the completion of a full course of primary schooling by children everywhere, boys and girls alike, by 2015,[39] and in this regard encourages the implementation of the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative launched by the Secretary-General at the World Education Forum;

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[38] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[39] See resolution 55/2, para. 19.

21. *Calls upon* States to ensure that emphasis is given to the qualitative aspects of education, that the education of the child is carried out, that States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] develop and implement programmes for the education of the child, in accordance with articles 28 and 29 of the Convention, and that education is directed, inter alia, to the development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the preparation of the child for a responsible life in a free society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin, and to ensure that children, from an early age, benefit from education on values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life that will enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity and of tolerance and non-discrimination, bearing in mind the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;[40]

22. *Calls upon* all States to take all appropriate measures to prevent racist, discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes and behaviour by means of education, keeping in mind the important role that children have to play in changing such practices;

23. *Also calls upon* all States to remove educational disparities and make education accessible to children living in poverty, children living in remote areas, children with special educational needs, children affected by armed conflict and children requiring special protection, including refugee children, migrant children, street children, children deprived of their liberty, indigenous children and children belonging to minorities;

24. *Calls upon* States, educational institutions and the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the particular needs of the girl child in education;

Freedom from violence

25. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

26. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to prevent and protect children from all forms of violence, including physical, mental and sexual violence, torture, child abuse, abuse by police, other law enforcement authorities and employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions, including orphanages, and domestic violence;

27. *Also calls upon* States to investigate and submit cases of torture and other forms of violence against children to the competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution and to impose appropriate disciplinary or penal sanctions against those responsible for such practices;

28. *Requests* all relevant human rights mechanisms, in particular special rapporteurs and working groups, within their mandates, to pay attention to the special situations of violence against children, reflecting their experiences in the field;

[40] Resolution 53/243.

29. *Reaffirms* its decision to request the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study of the question of violence against children and encourages him to appoint, as soon as possible, an independent expert to direct the study, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization, taking into account the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children[35] and the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child after its two days of general discussion on violence against children;[41]

30. *Calls upon* the Governments of all States, in particular States in which the death penalty has not been abolished, to comply with the obligations that they have assumed under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, including in particular articles 37 to 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] and articles 6 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;[42]

III. Promotion and protection of the rights of children in particularly vulnerable situations and non-discrimination against children

Plight of children working and/or living on the streets

1. *Calls upon* Governments to seek comprehensive solutions to the problems that cause children to work and/or live on the streets and to implement appropriate programmes and policies for the protection and the rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, bearing in mind that such children are particularly vulnerable to all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect;

2. *Calls upon* all States to ensure that basic social services, notably education, are provided for children in order to divert them from and to address the economic imperatives that lead to involvement in harmful, exploitative and abusive activity;

3. *Strongly urges* all Governments to guarantee respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the right to life, to take urgent and effective measures to prevent the killing of children working and/or living on the streets, to combat torture and abusive treatment and violence against them and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take the situation of children working and/or living on the streets into account when preparing reports for submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and encourages the Committee and other relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to pay increased attention to the question of children working and/or living on the streets;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to support, through effective international cooperation, including technical advice and assistance, the efforts of States to improve the situation of children working and/or living on the streets;

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[41] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 41* and corrigendum (A/57/41 and Corr.1), para. 83.

[42] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Refugee and internally displaced children

6. *Urges* Governments to improve the implementation of policies and programmes for the protection, care and well-being of refugee and internally displaced children and for the provision of basic social services, including access to education, with the necessary international cooperation, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, in accordance with the obligations of States under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;[31]

7. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict, as well as United Nations organizations and bodies, to give urgent attention, in terms of protection and assistance, to the fact that refugee and internally displaced children are particularly exposed to risks in connection with armed conflict, such as being forcibly recruited or subjected to sexual violence, abuse or exploitation;

8. *Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of refugee and internally displaced children who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, and calls upon all States and United Nations bodies and agencies and other relevant organizations to give priority to programmes for family tracing and reunification and to continue to monitor the care arrangements for refugee and internally displaced children who are unaccompanied or separated from their families;

Children with disabilities

9. *Encourages* the working group on the rights of children with disabilities established pursuant to the decision of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to put into practice as soon as possible the recommendations arising from the day of general discussion on the rights of children with disabilities, held on 6 October 1997,[43] including the drafting of a plan of action on children with disabilities, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Social Development on disability and other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

10. *Encourages* the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities to consider the issue of children with disabilities in its deliberations;

11. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, and to develop and enforce legislation against their discrimination so as to ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate their active participation in the community, including effective access to educational and health services;

Migrant children

12. *Calls upon* States to protect all human rights of migrant children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and to ensure that the best interest of the child shall accordingly be a primary consideration, and encourages the Committee

[43] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/53/41), sect. IV.C.2; and ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/55/41), sect. IV.C.2.

on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund and other relevant United Nations bodies, within their respective mandates, to pay particular attention to the conditions of migrant children in all States and, as appropriate, to make recommendations to strengthen their protection;

13. *Also calls upon* States to cooperate fully with and to assist the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants in addressing the particularly vulnerable conditions of migrant children;

IV. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children and of their sexual exploitation and abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[44] and expresses its support for his work;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all necessary human and financial assistance to enable him to discharge his mandate fully;

3. *Calls upon* States to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to give full consideration to all of his recommendations;

4. *Invites* further voluntary contributions through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and support for the work of the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

5. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography[45] and urges States parties to implement it fully, and also invites States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying it;

6. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] and the Optional Protocols thereto[32] to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or the trafficking in children for any purpose or in any form, including the transfer of the organs of the child for profit, and to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, in accordance with articles 35 and 34 of the Convention;

7. *Calls upon* States to take all appropriate steps to combat the misuse of new information and communication technologies, including the Internet, for trafficking in children and for purposes of all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, in particular the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, child sex tourism, acts of paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents, and notes that the use of such technologies can also contribute to preventing and eradicating such phenomena;

8. *Also calls upon* States to criminalize and to penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, paedophilia, child pornography, child prostitution, child sex tourism, trafficking, the sale of children and their organs and engagement in forced

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[44] E/CN.4/2002/88.

[45] Resolution 54/263, annex II.

child labour and any other form of exploitation, while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration, and to take effective measures to ensure the prosecution of offenders, whether local or foreign, by the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse takes place, in accordance with due process of law;

9. *Calls upon* all Member States to take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by means of multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, and in this regard calls upon Member States to promote international cooperation and coordination among their authorities, national and international non-governmental organizations and international organizations, as appropriate;

10. *Requests* States to increase cooperation and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and dismantle networks that traffic in children;

11. *Stresses* the need to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices against children, including through preventive and enforcement measures that target customers or individuals who sexually exploit or abuse children, and by ensuring public awareness;

12. *Calls upon* States to enact, enforce, review and revise, as appropriate, laws and to implement policies, programmes and practices to protect children from and to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, taking into account the particular problems posed by the use of the Internet in this regard;

13. *Also calls upon* States to identify best practices and to take all appropriate national, bilateral and multilateral measures, to allocate resources for the development of long-term policies, programmes and practices, to collect comprehensive and disaggregated gender-specific data and, while reaffirming the right of children, including adolescents, to express themselves freely, to facilitate the participation of child victims of sexual exploitation, taking into account their age and maturity, in the development of strategies to end the sale of children and their organs, sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and acts of paedophilia, and to combat existing markets;

14. *Invites* all States to take into account, as appropriate, the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001[36] in their efforts towards the prevention and elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of children;

15. *Urges* States to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or, where applicable, extradition proceedings brought in respect of the offences set forth in article 3, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[45] including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal for the proceedings;

16. *Calls upon* all States to contribute to the elimination of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by adopting a holistic approach,

addressing the contributing factors, including underdevelopment, poverty, economic disparity, inequitable socio-economic structures, dysfunctional families, irresponsible adult sexual behaviour, lack of education, urban-rural migration, gender discrimination, harmful traditional practices, armed conflict and trafficking in children;

17. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations organizations and bodies to allocate appropriate resources for the rehabilitation of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and to take all appropriate measures to promote their full recovery and social reintegration;

V. Protection of children affected by armed conflict

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;[46]

2. *Recognizes* the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative in paragraphs 35 to 37 of General Assembly resolution 51/77 of 12 December 1996, expresses its support for his work, in particular in raising worldwide awareness and mobilizing official and public opinion for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in order to promote respect for the rights and needs of children in conflict and post-conflict situations, and recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate for a further period of three years;

3. *Takes note* of further developments in the United Nations system response to the issue of children affected by armed conflict, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the scope and effectiveness of the United Nations system response, including recommendations for strengthening, mainstreaming, integrating and sustaining these activities, and to submit his report during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, for consideration at the beginning of the fifty-eighth session of the Assembly;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and all relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the Special Representative and the United Nations Children's Fund, to intensify further their efforts to continue to develop a concerted approach to the rights, protection and welfare of children affected by armed conflict, including, as appropriate, in the preparations for the field visits of the Special Representative and in the follow-up to such visits;

5. *Calls upon* all States and other parties concerned to continue to cooperate with the Special Representative in implementing the commitments that they have undertaken and to consider carefully all of the recommendations of the Special Representative and address the issues identified;

6. *Welcomes* the continuing support for and voluntary contributions to the work of the Special Representative in the fulfilment of his mandate;

7. *Also welcomes* the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict[47] and urges States parties to implement it fully, and also invites States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying it;

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[46] A/57/402.

[47] Resolution 54/263, annex I.

8. *Urges* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect international humanitarian law and to put an end to any form of targeting of children and to attacking sites that usually have a significant presence of children, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[48] and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,[49] and calls upon all parties to armed conflict to take all measures required to protect children from acts that constitute violations of international humanitarian law, including prosecution by States, within their national legal framework, of those responsible for such violations;

9. *Recognizes*, in this regard, the contribution of the establishment of the International Criminal Court to ending impunity for perpetrators of certain crimes committed against children, as defined in the Statute of the Court,[50] which include those involving sexual violence or child soldiers, and thus to the prevention of such crimes;

10. *Stresses* the importance of all relevant United Nations actors in the field improving their reporting, within their respective mandates, concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict and giving additional attention to this question;

11. *Condemns* the abduction of children in [illegible]ns of armed conflict and into armed conflict, urges States, international o[illegible]izations and other parties concerned to take all appropriate measures to secure the unconditional release, rehabilitation, reintegration and reunification with their families of all abducted children, and urges States to bring the perpetrators to justice;

12. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the adoption of children in situations of armed conflict is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that the best interest of the child is always envisaged as a paramount consideration;

13. *Urges* States and all other parties to armed conflict to end the use of children as soldiers, to ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, further encourages efforts by, inter alia, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to end the use of children as soldiers in armed conflict, and emphasizes that no support shall be given to those who systematically abuse or violate the rights of children during armed conflicts;

14. *Underlines* the importance of including measures to ensure the rights of the child, inter alia, in the areas of health and nutrition, formal, informal or non-formal education, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, in emergency and other humanitarian assistance policies and programmes;

15. *Reaffirms* the essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, takes note of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1379 (2001) on 20 November 2001, and notes the importance of the open debate held in the Security Council on 7 May 2002 on children and armed conflict and the undertaking by the

[48] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[49] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[50] A/CONF.183/9.

Council to give special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children when taking action aimed at maintaining peace and security;

16. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to ensure that children affected by armed conflict receive timely, effective and unhindered humanitarian assistance, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

17. *Reaffirms* agreed conclusions 1999/1 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 1999, in which the Council, inter alia, called for systematic, concerted and comprehensive inter-agency efforts on behalf of children, as well as adequate and sustainable resource allocation, to provide both immediate emergency assistance to and long-term measures for children throughout all the phases of an emergency;[51]

18. *Urges* States to implement effective measures for the rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society of all child victims in cases of armed conflict, invites the international community to assist in this endeavour, and further emphasizes the importance of giving systematic consideration to the special needs and particular vulnerability of the girl child during conflicts and in post-conflict situations;

19. *Also urges* States to take duly into consideration measures for special treatment and rehabilitation of child offenders;

20. *Calls upon* States and relevant United Nations bodies to continue to support national and international mine-action efforts, including by means of financial contributions, mine-awareness programmes, victim assistance and child-centred rehabilitation, and welcomes the positive effects on children of concrete legislative measures with respect to anti-personnel mines;

21. *Invites* States, multilateral donors and the private sector to cooperate and to commit the resources necessary for the early development of new and more efficient mine-detection and mine-clearance technologies for assistance in mine action;

22. *Notes with concern* the impact of small arms and light weapons on children in situations of armed conflict, in particular as a result of their illicit production and traffic;

23. *Recommends* that, whenever sanctions are imposed, their impact on children be assessed and monitored and that humanitarian exemptions be child-focused and formulated with clear guidelines for their application;

24. *Calls upon* States, relevant United Nations organizations and bodies and regional organizations to integrate the rights of the child into all activities in conflict and post-conflict situations, including training programmes and emergency relief operations, country programmes and field operations aimed at promoting peace and preventing and resolving conflict, as well as the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, and, given the long-term consequences for society, underlines the importance of including specific provisions for children, including resources, in peace agreements and in arrangements negotiated by parties;

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[51] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, para. 5.

25. *Calls upon* all States, in accordance with the norms of international humanitarian law, to integrate in the training and gender-sensitized education programmes of their armed forces, including those for peacekeeping, instruction on responsibilities towards the civilian population, in particular women and children;

26. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to encourage the involvement of young people in activities concerning the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including programmes for reconciliation, peace consolidation, peace-building and children-to-children networks;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the appointment by the Secretary-General of child protection advisers in United Nations peacekeeping missions, and encourages him to continue to appoint such advisers, where appropriate, to existing and future peacekeeping operations;

28. *Also notes with appreciation* the Winnipeg Agenda for War-Affected Children[52] and efforts by regional organizations to include prominently in their policies and programmes the rights and protection of children affected by armed conflict;

VI. Progressive elimination of child labour

1. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the conventions of the International Labour Organization relating to child labour, in particular the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973 (Convention No. 138), and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention No. 182), and to implement those conventions;

3. *Calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, and urges them, inter alia, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour as set out in the 1999 International Labour Organization Convention No. 182;

4. *Also calls upon* all States to assess and systematically examine the magnitude, nature and causes of child labour and to elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labour contrary to accepted international standards, giving special attention to specific dangers faced by girls, as well as to the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the children concerned;

5. *Recognizes* that primary education is one of the main instruments for reintegrating child workers, calls upon all States to recognize the right to education by making primary education compulsory and to ensure that all children have equal access to free primary education as a key strategy to prevent child labour, and

[52] A/55/467-S/2000/973, annex.

recognizes, in particular, the important role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in this regard;

6. *Calls upon* all States and the United Nations system to strengthen international cooperation as a means of assisting Governments in preventing or combating violations of the rights of the child and in attaining the objective of eliminating child labour contrary to accepted international standards;

7. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen cooperation and coordination at the national and international levels to address effectively the problem of child labour, in close cooperation with, inter alia, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund;

VII

Decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to prepare a report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments set out in the final document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly, entitled "A world fit for children",[35] with a view to identifying problems and constraints and making recommendations on the action needed to achieve further progress, and to submit his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

(b) To include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly", which will be considered in plenary meeting;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child[31] and the problems addressed in the present resolution;

(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to submit to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights reports containing relevant information on the situation of children affected by armed conflict, taking into account the outcome document adopted by the General Assembly at its special session on children[35] and bearing in mind existing mandates and reports of relevant bodies;

(e) To continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".

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26. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Reports submitted in connection with the promotion and protection of the rights of children

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child[53] and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.[54]

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[53] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 41* and corrigendum (A/57/41 and Corr.1).

[54] A/57/295.